

## PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

### SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

The Physical Therapy Board of California hereby amends its regulations in Division 13.2 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

#### **1398.44. Adequate Supervision Defined.**

A licensed physical therapist shall at all times be responsible for all physical therapy services provided by the physical therapist assistant. At the beginning of each treatment day, a supervising physical therapist, for each patient to be treated by the physical therapist assistant, will be identified by name to the physical therapist assistant. The supervising physical therapist has continuing responsibility to follow the progress of each patient, manage and direct the patient's program, and provide direct care to the patient, ~~and to assure that the physical therapist assistant does not function autonomously.~~ Adequate direction and supervision by the supervising physical therapist shall include all of the following:

(a) The supervising physical therapist shall be readily available in person or by telecommunication to the physical therapist assistant at all times while the physical therapist assistant is treating patients. The supervising physical therapist shall provide periodic on site supervision and observation of the ~~assigned~~ patient care rendered by the physical therapist assistant.

(b) The supervising physical therapist shall initially evaluate each patient and document in the patient record, along with his or her signature, the evaluation and time frame for re-evaluation. ~~when the patient is to be reevaluated.~~

(c) The supervising physical therapist shall formulate and document in each patient's record, along with his or her signature, the treatment program goals and plan based upon the evaluation and any other information available to the supervising physical therapist. This information shall be communicated verbally, or in writing by the supervising physical therapist to the physical therapist assistant prior to initiation of treatment by the physical therapist assistant. ~~The supervising physical therapist shall determine which elements of the treatment plan may be assigned to the physical therapist assistant. Assignment of these responsibilities must be commensurate with the qualifications, including experience, education and training, of the physical therapist assistant.~~

(d) The supervising physical therapist shall determine and document in the patient's record which elements of the treatment plan may be assigned to the physical therapist assistant. Assignment of these responsibilities must be commensurate with the qualifications, including experience, education, and training of the physical therapist assistant.

~~(e) The supervising physical therapist shall reevaluate the patient according to the time frame established, as previously determined, or more often if necessitated by the patient's condition and or rate of progress, necessary, and modify the treatment, goals and plan as needed. The reevaluation shall include treatment to the patient by the supervising physical therapist, progress towards goals, modifications to the treatment goals or plan, and when the next reevaluation shall be performed. The reevaluation shall be documented and signed by the supervising physical therapist in the patient's record and shall reflect the patient's progress toward the treatment goals and when the next reevaluation shall be performed.~~

~~(e) (f) The physical therapist assistant shall document each treatment in the patient record, along with his or her signature. The physical therapist assistant shall document in the patient record and notify the supervising physical therapist of any change in the patient's participation, condition, or response to treatment not consistent with planned progress or treatment goals or projected progress. The Such change in condition necessitates a documented reevaluation by a supervising physical therapist or a documented case conference between the supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant before further treatment by the physical therapist assistant.~~

~~(f) Within seven (7) days of the care being provided by the physical therapist assistant, the supervising physical therapist shall review, cosign and date all documentation by the physical therapist assistant or conduct a weekly case conference and document it in the patient record. Cosigning by the supervising physical therapist indicates that the supervising physical therapist has read the documentation, and unless the supervising physical therapist indicates otherwise, he or she is in agreement with the contents of the documentation.~~

~~(g) There shall be a regularly scheduled and documented case conference between the supervising physical therapist and physical therapist assistant regarding the patient. The frequency of the conferences is to be determined by the supervising physical therapist based on the needs of the patient, the supervisory needs of the physical therapist assistant and shall be at least every thirty calendar days.~~

(g) Regular communication between the supervising physical therapist and physical therapist assistant shall be documented in one of two ways:

1. Co-signatures: Within 7 (seven) days of care being provided by the physical therapist assistant, the supervising physical therapist shall co-sign each entry made by the physical therapist assistant with his or her first initial and last name. Co-signing of the physical therapist assistant's documentation by the supervising physical therapist indicates that the supervising physical therapist has read the documentation and is in agreement with it's contents, unless otherwise indicated. If co-signatures of each entry are performed, the supervising physical therapist

shall reevaluate the patient and conduct a case conference with the physical therapist assistant at least every 30 (thirty) days. Documentation of the case conference shall be entered into the patient's record and signed by the supervising physical therapist. This documentation shall reflect a review of the patient's participation in the current treatment plan, progress toward goals, and changes in the goals, treatment plan, or discharge plan; or

2. Weekly Case Conference: Documentation of the weekly case conference shall be entered into the patient's record and signed by the supervising physical therapist. This documentation shall reflect a review of the patient's participation in the current treatment plan, progress toward goals, and changes in the goals, treatment plan, or discharge plan.

(h) The supervising physical therapist shall establish a discharge plan. At the time of discharge, or within ~~7 (seven)~~ 14 (fourteen) days thereafter, ~~a~~ the supervising physical therapist shall document in the patient's record, along with his or her signature, the patient's response to treatment in the form of a reevaluation or discharge summary.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2615, 2655.1 and 2655.92, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 2655.92, Business and Professions Code.